

PITTSBURGH PRESS

SUNDAY 18 JANUARY 1976

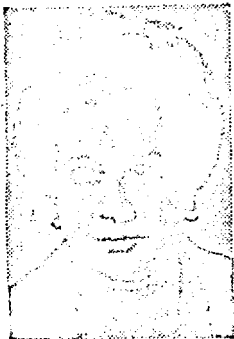
Targets For Murder

Revealing CIA Agents Is Treachery

By MARY O'HARA

We hear a lot about the privileges of United States citizenship but not about the concomitant duties and responsibilities of being an American.

In the past, our news media are disinterested in so-called American agents whose citizenship should be challenged.



MISS O'HARA

Principal among these are the editors, owners, sustainers and providers of the magazine "Counterspy," including CIA defector Philip Agee,

who, by their own statements, have set out to wreck the Central Intelligence Agency.

In the doing, they have colluded with foreign leftwing publications to arrange release of the names of CIA agents stationed in various parts of the world. The publication of one agent's name resulted in his murder.

Agents in Latin America, fingered by their former colleague, have been harrassed, shot at and routed, much to the delight of their left-wing adversaries.

As additional names of agents have been published, they join the targets for destruction, expendable in a campaign by Americans to weaken and defeat American policy and to strengthen this nation's enemies.

This isn't mere dissent; this is treachery.

No sensible person condones or excuses CIA excesses and errors of the

past but you don't dissolve the presidency because someone dishonored it. You don't mow down Congress because certain crooks and mountebanks have invaded its ranks.

Ours is an old, imperfect form of government with disorders and excesses which must be corrected as they arise. But to tear down our international intelligence and finger our agents for death is a traitorous act, comparable, if not more despicable than selling military secrets to the enemy.

At least the spy risks his own life. The CIA destroyers risk others' lives while enjoying the protection and benefits of American citizenship.

In today's world where aggressive communism threatens us on all fronts, we cannot survive without an intelligence agency. But we can do very well without the "Counterspy" ilk of citizen.